

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in this application, and are not being amended.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as obvious over GHANI 2002/0085029 in view of MASSAND 2004/0085354.

Claims 10-13 were rejected as anticipated by GHANI.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 1 recites, in part (emphasis added):

b) transmitting, from the said organizer user terminal, to the said dedicated server, the set of electronic documents to be distributed in their different original formats, accompanied by the list of the other invited users and, at the level of the said dedicated server, [and]

c) converting each of the electronic documents to be distributed into a plurality of successive current pages in a unique HTML format and putting the said successive pages on line on the Internet site of the said dedicated server.

Thus, the claim requires converting documents of different formats into HTML format.

For step b), the Official Action offers GHANI paragraph [0035], lines 6-8; paragraph [0040], lines 1-10 as disclosing transfer list and contents of documents to a server.

Paragraph [0035] discloses, lines 6-8 emphasized, that presenter computer 100 and participant computers 120 are all linked together by web-based system server 140 via the Internet 130 for facilitating collaboration between a presenter and a plurality of participants. All of the presentation content is uploaded by the presenter to and maintained on server 140. In order to control the collaboration process, all communications between presenter computer 100 and participant computers 120 are passed through and controlled by server 140. There are no direct communications between presenter computer 100 and participant computers 120. While only a single presenter computer 100 relative to multiple participant computers 120 is depicted in FIG. 1 to represent a single collaboration session, server 140 might be coupled to multiple presenter computers 100 since event server 140 can simultaneously process multiple collaboration sessions.

This paragraph does disclose documents being transferred to a server.

Paragraph [0040] discloses that the GHANI system allows a presenter to share numerous types of materials during a session with participants. Some of these materials include documents, presentations, spreadsheets, images, movies, and questionnaires. In addition to the different types of materials, the presenter also has several options on how to make the information available to participants. These options include making the material

available for download, only for playback, available prior to the session, for interactive participation, available using special streaming technology.

This paragraph discloses that numerous types of documents may be shared/made available during a session. The options listed include making the material available for download, only for playback, available prior to the session, for interactive participation, available using special streaming technology.

There is, however, no disclosure of converting plural original formats into HTML.

For step c), the Official Action offered GHANI paragraph [0008], lines 3-5; paragraph [0048], lines 1-12; and paragraph [0035], lines 6-8.

Paragraph [0008], lines 3-5 are "The system server includes a presentation conversion engine which converts application specific presentation files to a universal image format file, a whiteboard application which in response to commands generated by the presenter graphical user interface controls the presentation on the participant graphical user interface,". This passage discloses a presentation conversion engine which "converts application specific presentation files to a universal image format file". The meaning of this passage is not clear as, up to this point in the specification, these phrases are not defined. However, one can see from paragraph

[0118] that the presentation files are in PowerPoint format. See also [0124].

See paragraph [0048] disclosing (emphasis added) that the "presentation conversion and publishing engine 145 utilizes MS PowerPoint format (PPT) files, which are converted into an image format file. Whiteboard application 150 then displays the image format file on whiteboard 400. While presentation conversion and publishing engine 145 converts only PPT files, other types of files maybe displayed on whiteboard 400."

The only conversion that is disclosed is from PowerPoint format (PPT) to "an image format file". Thus, it is clear that there is no disclosure of converting documents of different formats into HTML. Indeed, the teaching of GHANI is to use PPT files, and convert the PPT files into an image format.

Additionally, claim 1 requires "b) transmitting, from the said organizer user terminal, to the said dedicated server, the set of electronic documents to be distributed in their different original formats, accompanied by the list of the other invited users". Paragraphs [0035] and [0040] have been carefully reviewed, as these were offered as disclosing step b). However, GHANI does not disclose transmitting, from the organizer user terminal to the dedicated server, the list of the other invited users which comprises usernames, first names and electronic addresses (see step a) "... the drawing-up of a list of surnames,

first names, and electronic addresses of other users who are invited to the said session").

Thus, GHANI does not disclose the features for which it was offered. Therefore, even if the references were combined, the recited invention does not result.

The Official Action acknowledges that GHANI does not disclose recited step d).

Applicants believe this combination is the application of hindsight, as MASSAND is in a very different technical field than GHANI (distance teaching for GHANI, revising documents for MASSAND). The Official Action does not offer any explicit analysis why one of skill in the art of GHANI would, absent hindsight, would think to look to such unrelated art as MASSAND. The proper inquire is whether a distance teaching practitioner would have found it obvious to modify GHANI to include the features of step d). If so, the rejection must articulate why such modification was obvious, including some rational underpinning to support the conclusion.

Therefore, there is no motivation to combine the references and the rejection fails for this further reason.

However, as GHANI does not disclose the features for which it was offered, even if the references were combined, the recited invention does not result.

The same reasoning applies to claim 8.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 are requested.

As to claim 10, see that GHANI teaches (paragraph [0197]) that the server scans periodically the users' terminals in order to disconnect them in case of more than 5 minutes of inactivity. Thus, GHANI does not disclose:

- transmitting, from the said dedicated server to each of the terminals of the said users ... a response message for the continued posting of the said page of an HTML page, this response message of continued posting comprising a reference of the HTML page to be posted, which is identical to or different from the reference of the said current HTML page and, upon receipt of a response message of continued posting comprising a reference of the HTML page to be posted which is identical to or different from the reference of the said current HTML page,

- maintaining the posting of the said current HTML page on each of the user terminals participating in the said session and, on receipt of a response message for continued posting comprising a reference of the HTML page to be posted different from the reference of the said current HTML page and relating to another HTML page,

- transmitting from each of the user terminals participating in the session to the said dedicated server, a message requesting access to the said other HTML page, and

- transmitting from the said dedicated server to each of the said user terminals participating in the session, the said other HTML page,

- posting, on each of the user terminals, the said other HTML page, which is subsequently taken as the current HTML page.

Therefore, claim 10 cannot be anticipated. Allowance of claims 10-13 is solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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